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APPLICANT: Charles R. Bobo, II

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EXAMINER: Thomas Peeso

FOR: SYSTEMS AND METHODS FOR
STORING, DELIVERING, AND
MANAGING MESSAGES

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Janie Wilkins
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DATE: April 23, 2001

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Prior to the initial examination, please amend the above-identified application as
follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

On page 1, lines 4 and 5, after "This application" insert the following:

-- is a continuation of Serial No. 09/186,595, which is a continuation of U.S. Serial No.
08/944,741 filed on October 6, 1997, now U.S. Patent No. 5,870,549, which is --.

On page 1, line 5, after "1995," insert -- , now U.S. Patent No. 5,675,507 --.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1 to 39.

Please add new claims 40 to 126.

40. (Newly Added) A method of receiving a document in a first format and for making the document available over a network operating on an Internet protocol wherein the first format is a non-Internet protocol, comprising:

receiving a first communication;

receiving a document contained as part of the first communication wherein the document is in the first format;

associating the document with at least one user;

storing the document in a database in accordance with the user associated with the document;

receiving a second communication over the network in the Internet protocol, the second communication being a request for at least part of the document;

making at least part of the document available in the Internet protocol; and

sending at least part of the document over the second network in the Internet protocol in response to the request.

41. The method as set forth in claim 40, wherein receiving the communication in the first format comprises receiving a voice message over a telephone network.

42. The method as set forth in claim 40, wherein receiving the communication in the first format comprises receiving a facsimile message over a telephone network.

43. The method as set forth in claim 40, wherein receiving the communication in the first format comprises receiving a computer file over a telephone network.

44. The method as set forth in claim 40, wherein associating the document comprises associating the document to a business.

45. The method as set forth in claim 40, wherein associating the document comprises associating the document to a division of a business.

46. The method as set forth in claim 40, wherein associating the document comprises associating the document to a group of individuals.

47. The method as set forth in claim 40, wherein associating the document comprises associating the document to an individual.

48. The method as set forth in claim 40, wherein associating the document comprises associating the document based on an address contained as part of the first communication.

49. The method as set forth in claim 40, wherein receiving the second communication comprises receiving the second communication from the user.

50. The method as set forth in claim 40, wherein storing the document comprises storing in a relational database a data entry having a plurality of fields related to the document.

51. The method as set forth in claim 40, further comprising receiving a search query for the document and returning

52. The method as set forth in claim 40, wherein receiving the document comprises receiving a voice message and the method further comprises translating the voice message into another language.

53. The method as set forth in claim 40, further comprising notifying the user after receiving the document.

54. The method as set forth in claim 40, wherein sending comprises sending at least part of the document in XML.

55. The method as set forth in claim 40, wherein sending comprises sending at

least part of the document to a hand-held device.

56. The method as set forth in claim 40, wherein the second network comprises the Internet.

57. The method as set forth in claim 40, wherein the second network comprises an intranet.

58. The method as set forth in claim 40, wherein receiving the second communication with the request for at least part of the document is preceded by using an inbox to show documents associated with the user.

59. The method as set forth in claim 40, wherein sending comprises sending at least part of the document to the user through a browser.

60. The method as set forth in claim 40, further comprising checking that the user has access to the document prior to sending at least part of the document to the user.

61. A method of storing documents on behalf of a plurality of users and for providing the users access to the documents over a network operating on an Internet protocol, comprising:

receiving the documents from the users, wherein the documents are of multiple types;

associating the documents with their corresponding users;

storing the documents for the plurality of users, the documents being stored based on associations with their corresponding users;

assigning access control to the documents whereby individuals are defined to have certain access rights to the documents;

creating in-boxes for individuals, an in-box for use in showing documents that an individual has been assigned certain rights;

making in-boxes available to the individuals over the network operating on the Internet protocol, wherein individuals can use a browser to see their documents;

receiving requests directed to the documents, the requests being sent through the network operating on the Internet protocol;

checking the access control for the individuals to make sure that the individuals have the proper rights for the requests; and

sending at least part of the documents associated with the requests to the individuals over the network in the Internet protocol;

wherein individuals are able to access a plurality of documents of different types over the network in the Internet protocol using the browser.

62. The method as set forth in claim 61, wherein receiving the documents comprise receiving the documents over a telephone network.

63. The method as set forth in claim 61, wherein receiving the documents

comprise receiving the documents from a computer.

64. The method as set forth in claim 61, wherein storing the documents comprises storing the documents in a relational database.

65. The method as set forth in claim 61, wherein creating the in-boxes comprises listing all documents of a particular type received for the corresponding individual.

66. The method as set forth in claim 61, wherein assigning access control and checking the access control comprise granting access to a set of documents only to individuals of a company.

67. The method as set forth in claim 61, wherein assigning access control and checking the access control comprise granting access to a set of documents only to individuals of a division for a company.

68. The method as set forth in claim 61, wherein assigning access control and checking the access control comprise granting access to a set of documents only to a group of individuals.

69. The method as set forth in claim 61, wherein assigning access control and checking the access control comprise granting access to a set of documents only to one

individual.

70. The method as set forth in claim 61, wherein assigning access control and checking the access control comprises identifying an individual seeking access to one of the documents.

71. The method as set forth in claim 61, further comprising receiving a new document for one individual and notifying the one individual that the new document has been received.

72. The method as set forth in claim 61, wherein receiving the documents includes receiving one document from a first individual and wherein sending at least part of the document comprises sending at least part of the one document to a second individual.

73. A method of providing an electronic file delivery and storage service operating in an electronic computer data network including the Internet network, for sending the electronic file to a recipient, comprising:

providing a server for uploading the electronic file from a sending computer and for downloading the electronic file to a receiving computer;

providing a computer storage and database associated with the server;

the server accepting a connection with the sending computer using an electronic data transmission protocol;

the server receiving first recipient identifying information via the connection with the sending computer;

the server uploading the electronic file via the connection with the sending computer, the electronic file transmitted over the connection using the electronic data transmission protocol;

the server determining file identifying information for the electronic file;

the server storing the electronic file in the computer storage, and associating in the database the electronic file with the file identifying information and the first recipient identifying information;

the server generating a delivery notification for the recipient containing delivery notification information based on the file identifying information, and sending the delivery notification to the recipient using an address associated with the recipient based on the first recipient identifying information;

the server accepting a connection with the receiving computer, initiated by the recipient in response to the delivery notification, using the Internet protocol;

the server receiving second recipient identifying information via the connection with the receiving computer, using the Internet protocol;

the server using the second recipient identifying information from the receiving computer to grant access to information associated with the recipient,

the server transmitting to the receiving computer, via the connection with the receiving computer, the information associated with the recipient, using the Internet protocol;

the server accepting a request from the receiving computer, via the connection with

the receiving computer, initiated by the recipient in response to the transmitted information associated with the recipient, using the Internet protocol;

the server accessing the electronic file from the computer storage in response to the request; and

the server downloading at least a portion of the electronic file to the receiving computer via the connection with the receiving computer, using the Internet protocol.

74. The method of claim 73, wherein the electronic file comprises a facsimile image file.

75. The method of claim 73, wherein the electronic file comprises an audio file.

76. The method of claim 73, wherein the electronic file comprises a data file.

77. The method of claim 73, wherein the delivery notification comprises an e-mail message transmitted via the Internet.

78. The method of claim 73, wherein the delivery notification comprises a pager message.

79. The method of claim 73, wherein receiving the first recipient identifying information via the connection with the sending computer comprises receiving the address

associated with the recipient.

80. The method of claim 73, wherein receiving the second recipient identifying information via the connection with the receiving computer comprises receiving a recipient identifier and password from the receiving computer, and further comprising the server using the recipient identifier and password to grant access to the electronic file by using the database to authenticate the recipient based on the recipient identifier and password.

81. The method of claim 80, further comprising the server, after authenticating the recipient, transmitting to the receiving computer, via the connection with the receiving computer, displayable data formatted in a mixed media page layout language for providing textual description of the electronic file delivery and storage service, for providing the option of opening an account with the service, and for providing the option of accessing an established account with the service.

82. The method of claim 73, further comprising the server receiving sender identifying information via the connection with the sending computer, and wherein the delivery notification information comprises information based on the sender identifying information

83. The method of claim 73, wherein the information associated with the recipient transmitted to the receiving computer comprises a list of electronic files associated with the

recipient;

further comprising the server using the second recipient identifying information from the receiving computer to retrieve from the database the list of electronic files associated with the recipient; and

wherein the request is initiated by the recipient in response to the transmitted list of electronic files.

84. The method of claim 83, wherein the transmitted list of electronic files is formatted in a mixed media page layout language.

85. The method of claim 84, wherein the transmitted list of electronic files is formatted in the HTML language.

86. The method of claim 84, wherein the transmitted list of electronic files comprises a textual description of each electronic file and an associated reference to each electronic file.

87. The method of claim 86, wherein the reference comprises a command for accessing the associated electronic file, the command includes command information based on the file identifying information for the associated electronic file, the request is initiated by the recipient selecting the reference, the request includes the command, and the server executes the command in response to the request, using the command information to access

the electronic file.

88. A method of providing an electronic file delivery and storage service operating in an electronic computer data network including the Internet network, for sending the electronic file to a recipient, comprising:

providing a server for uploading the electronic file from a sending computer and for downloading the electronic file to a receiving computer;

providing a computer storage and database associated with the server;

the server accepting a connection with the sending computer using an electronic data transmission protocol;

the server receiving first recipient identifying information via the connection with the sending computer;

the server uploading the electronic file via the connection with the sending computer, the electronic file transmitted over the connection using the electronic data transmission protocol;

the server determining file identifying information for the electronic file;

the server storing the electronic file in the computer storage, and associating in the database the electronic file with the file identifying information and the first recipient identifying information;

the server generating a delivery notification for the recipient containing delivery notification information based on the file identifying information, and sending the delivery notification to the recipient using an address associated with the recipient based on the first

recipient identifying information;

the server accepting a connection with the receiving computer, initiated by the recipient in response to the delivery notification, using the Internet protocol;

the server receiving second recipient identifying information and document identifying information via the connection with the receiving computer, using the Internet protocol;

the server accessing the electronic file from the computer storage based on the second recipient identifying information and document identifying information; and

the server downloading at least a portion of the electronic file to the receiving computer via the connection with the receiving computer, using the Internet protocol.

89. The method of claim 88, wherein the electronic file comprises a facsimile image file.

90. The method of claim 88, wherein the electronic file comprises an audio file.

91. The method of claim 88, wherein the electronic file comprises a data file.

92. The method of claim 88, wherein the delivery notification comprises an e-mail message transmitted via the Internet.

93. The method of claim 88, wherein the delivery notification comprises a pager

message.

94. The method of claim 88, wherein receiving the first recipient identifying information via the connection with the sending computer comprises receiving the address associated with the recipient.

95. The method of claim 88, wherein receiving the second recipient identifying information via the connection with the receiving computer comprises receiving a recipient identifier and password from the receiving computer, and further comprising the server using the recipient identifier and password to grant access to the electronic file by using the database to authenticate the recipient based on the recipient identifier and password.

96. The method of claim 95, further comprising the server, after authenticating the recipient, transmitting to the receiving computer, via the connection with the receiving computer, displayable data formatted in a mixed media page layout language for providing textual description of the electronic file delivery and storage service, for providing the option of opening an account with the service, and for providing the option of accessing an established account with the service.

97. The method of claim 88, further comprising the server receiving sender identifying information via the connection with the sending computer, and wherein the delivery notification information comprises information based on the sender identifying

information

98. The method of claim 88, wherein the delivery notification comprises a reference, and wherein the server receiving the document identifying information via the connection with the receiving computer comprises receiving the reference from the receiving computer, via the connection with the receiving computer, initiated by the recipient in response to selection of the reference by the recipient, using the Internet protocol.

99. The method of claim 88, wherein the reference comprises a command for accessing the electronic file, the command includes command information based on the file identifying information, and the server executes the command in response to receiving the reference, using the command information to access the electronic file.

100. An electronic file delivery and storage service system operating in an electronic computer data network including the Internet network, adapted for sending an electronic file to a recipient, comprising:

a server adapted for uploading the electronic file from a sending computer and adapted for downloading the electronic file to a receiving computer;

a computer storage and database associated with the server;

the server adapted for accepting a connection with the sending computer using the electronic data transmission protocol;

the server adapted for receiving first recipient identifying information via the

connection with the sending computer;

the server adapted for uploading the electronic file via the connection with the sending computer, the electronic file transmitted over the connection using the electronic data transmission protocol;

the server adapted for determining file identifying information for the electronic file;

the server adapted for storing the electronic file in the computer storage, and adapted for associating in the database the electronic file with the file identifying information and the first recipient identifying information;

the server adapted for generating a delivery notification for the recipient containing delivery notification information based on the file identifying information, and adapted for sending the delivery notification to the recipient using an address associated with the recipient based on the first recipient identifying information;

the server adapted for accepting a connection with the receiving computer, initiated by the recipient in response to the delivery notification, using an Internet protocol;

the server adapted for receiving second recipient identifying information via the connection with the receiving computer, using the Internet protocol;

the server adapted for using the second recipient identifying information from the receiving computer to grant access to information associated with the recipient,

the server adapted for transmitting to the receiving computer, via the connection with the receiving computer, the information associated with the recipient, using the Internet protocol;

the server adapted for accepting a request from the receiving computer, via the

connection with the receiving computer, initiated by the recipient in response to the transmitted information associated with the recipient, using the Internet protocol;

the server adapted for accessing the electronic file from the computer storage in response to the request; and

the server adapted for downloading at least a portion of the electronic file to the receiving computer via the connection with the receiving computer, using the Internet protocol.

101. The system of claim 100, wherein the electronic file comprises a facsimile image file.

102. The system of claim 100, wherein the electronic file comprises an audio file.

103. The system of claim 100, wherein the electronic file comprises a data file.

104. The system of claim 100, wherein the delivery notification comprises an e-mail message transmitted via the Internet.

105. The system of claim 100, wherein the delivery notification comprises a pager message.

106. The system of claim 100, wherein receiving the first recipient identifying

information via the connection with the sending computer comprises receiving the address associated with the recipient.

107. The system of claim 100, wherein receiving the second recipient identifying information via the connection with the receiving computer comprises receiving a recipient identifier and password from the receiving computer, and further comprising the server adapted for using the recipient identifier and password to grant access to the electronic file by using the database to authenticate the recipient based on the recipient identifier and password.

108. The system of claim 107, further comprising the server adapted for, after authenticating the recipient, transmitting to the receiving computer, via the connection with the receiving computer, displayable data formatted in a mixed media page layout language for providing textual description of the electronic file delivery and storage service, for providing the option of opening an account with the service, and for providing the option of accessing an established account with the service.

109. The system of claim 100, further comprising the server adapted for receiving sender identifying information via the connection with the sending computer, and wherein the delivery notification information comprises information based on the sender identifying information

110. The system of claim 100, wherein the information associated with the recipient transmitted to the receiving computer comprises a list of electronic files associated with the recipient;

further comprising the server adapted for using the second recipient identifying information from the receiving computer to retrieve from the database the list of electronic files associated with the recipient; and

wherein the request is initiated by the recipient in response to the transmitted list of electronic files.

111. The system of claim 110, wherein the transmitted list of electronic files is formatted in a mixed media page layout language.

112. The system of claim 111, wherein the transmitted list of electronic files is formatted in the HTML language.

113. The system of claim 111, wherein the transmitted list of electronic files comprises a textual description of each electronic file and an associated reference to each electronic file.

114. The system of claim 113, wherein the reference comprises a command for accessing the associated electronic file, the command includes command information based on the file identifying information for the associated electronic file, the request is initiated by

the recipient selecting the reference, the request includes the command, and the server is adapted for executing the command in response to the request, using the command information to access the electronic file.

115. An electronic file delivery and storage service system operating in an electronic computer data network including the Internet network, adapted for sending an electronic file to a recipient, comprising:

a server adapted for uploading the electronic file from a sending computer and adapted for downloading the electronic file to a receiving computer;

a computer storage and database associated with the server;

the server adapted for accepting a connection with the sending computer using an electronic data transmission protocol;

the server adapted for receiving first recipient identifying information via the connection with the sending computer;

the server adapted for uploading the electronic file via the connection with the sending computer, the electronic file transmitted over the connection using the electronic data transmission protocol;

the server adapted for determining file identifying information for the electronic file;

the server adapted for storing the electronic file in the computer storage, and adapted for associating in the database the electronic file with the file identifying information and the first recipient identifying information;

the server adapted for generating a delivery notification for the recipient containing

delivery notification information based on the file identifying information, and adapted for sending the delivery notification to the recipient using an address associated with the recipient based on the first recipient identifying information;

the server adapted for accepting a connection with the receiving computer, initiated by the recipient in response to the delivery notification, using an Internet protocol;

the server adapted for receiving second recipient identifying information and document identifying information via the connection with the receiving computer, using the Internet protocol;

the server adapted for accessing the electronic file from the computer storage based on the second recipient identifying information and document identifying information; and

the server adapted for downloading at least a portion of the electronic file to the receiving computer via the connection with the receiving computer, using the Internet protocol.

116. The system of claim 115, wherein the electronic file comprises a facsimile image file.

117. The system of claim 115, wherein the electronic file comprises an audio file.

118. The system of claim 115, wherein the electronic file comprises a data file.

119. The system of claim 115, wherein the delivery notification comprises an e-

mail message transmitted via the Internet.

120. The system of claim 115, wherein the delivery notification comprises a pager message.

121. The system of claim 115, wherein receiving the first recipient identifying information via the connection with the sending computer comprises receiving the address associated with the recipient.

122. The system of claim 115, wherein receiving the second recipient identifying information via the connection with the receiving computer comprises receiving a recipient identifier and password from the receiving computer, and further comprising the server adapted for using the recipient identifier and password to grant access to the electronic file by using the database to authenticate the recipient based on the recipient identifier and password.

123. The system of claim 122, further comprising the server adapted for, after authenticating the recipient, transmitting to the receiving computer, via the connection with the receiving computer, displayable data formatted in a mixed media page layout language for providing textual description of the electronic file delivery and storage service, for providing the option of opening an account with the service, and for providing the option of accessing an established account with the service.

124. The system of claim 115, further comprising the server adapted for receiving sender identifying information via the connection with the sending computer, and wherein the delivery notification information comprises information based on the sender identifying information

125. The system of claim 115, wherein the delivery notification comprises a reference, and wherein the server adapted for receiving the document identifying information via the connection with the receiving computer comprises the server adapted for receiving the reference from the receiving computer, via the connection with the receiving computer, initiated by the recipient in response to selection of the reference by the recipient, using the Internet protocol.

126. The system of claim 125, wherein the reference comprises a command for accessing the electronic file, the command includes command information based on the file identifying information, and the server is adapted for executing the command in response to receiving the reference, using the command information to access the electronic file.

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Charles R. Bobo, III

Title: Systems and Methods for Storing, Delivering, and Managing Messages

REMARKS

This preliminary amendment is being submitted to present additional claims directed to patentable aspects of the invention. If the Examiner has any comments or suggestions to place the application in even better form, such as to result in a Notice of Allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned attorney.

Please charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-0855.

Respectfully submitted,



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